

Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, FAFSA, which helps make college a possibility for many young Americans.

The 2010-2011 form is now available and has been improved by eliminating 22 questions and 17 Web screens from the overall application.

These improvements--which will lessen obstacles for accessibility and financial aid--will help achieve President Obama's goal of generating the highest number of college graduates by 2020.

The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act which I proudly supported, further enhances FAFSA and brings us a step closer towards accomplishing the President's goal.

Every student, regardless of their parents' economic status, should be able to attend college.

For years I have teamed up with schools and stakeholders to sponsor ``FAFSA Nights" for parents and students; in my district.

This year I will hold a total of three ``FAFSA Nights" in my district. The first two events drew close to 500 people and we anticipate that over 300 will attend the third event.

I encourage my colleagues to hold similar events.